



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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Atlanta, Georgia 30334-8400

**Greg S. Griffin**  
STATE AUDITOR  
(404) 656-2174

February 11, 2019

The Honorable Tommy Benton  
State Representative  
State Capitol, Room 217  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: State Auditor's Certification  
House Bill (LC 43 1208) (Revised)

Dear Representative Benton:

This bill would amend general provisions relating to the reduction and forfeiture of rights and benefits for employees who commit public employment related crimes. Current law states that members who commit a public employment related crime forfeit their retirement benefits until such time as the member has repaid an amount equal to three times the economic impact of the crime. If this legislation is enacted, retirement systems would have the authority to adopt a policy which would allow for an actuarially determined reduction in benefits over the life expectancy of the member, with the remainder of the benefit applied towards repayment for costs related to the crime. Furthermore, this bill would increase the number of days allowed by a board of trustees to initiate proceedings in the Office of the State Administrative Hearings to determine the economic impact of the public employment related crime committed by one of their members. Currently the board must initiate such hearing within 30 days of notice. If this legislation is enacted, a board would have 90 days to initiate the hearing.

This is to certify that this bill is a nonfiscal retirement bill as defined in the Public Retirement Systems Standards Law.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg S. Griffin".

Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

GSG/cs